

# Education Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
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## What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

### Missouri Numbers:



**4,954 Employers**



**220,230 Workers**



**\$51,558 Average Wage**

### Why Have a Career in Education?

Education professionals are preparing today's students to be tomorrow's workforce. The Education industry has nearly 5,000 employers in both the public and private sector that provide jobs to over 220,200 workers. Wages in this industry averaged \$51,558 in 2023. Employment increased an average of 0.6 percent per year from 2018 to 2023, adding a total of 1,416 jobs. Education represents 7.7 percent of all public and private sector employment.

From Office Support to Instructors and Administrators, there are various job opportunities in the Education sector. High wages and projected growth make Education occupations a good career choice in Instruction, Support Services, Professional Support Services, and Administrative & Business Support.

### Know the Basics

Most employees in the Education sector interact with students and others on a daily basis, so being able to communicate effectively, both individually and in groups, is necessary. The ability to work with co-workers as a team is also important. For instructors, knowledge of subject matter, the ability to adapt teaching methods and materials to meet students' needs, and the ability to evaluate students' work and progress are important. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries, including Education.

### Skills needed for Success:

There are several ways to become a certified educator in Missouri. In addition to the traditional route of completing student teaching and receiving a bachelor's degree in the field of education, there are alternative routes to certification available. An individual with a bachelor's degree in a content area, such as Mathematics or English, can return to a college of education for a program of study that may enable them to take courses and teach simultaneously. In certain middle and high school subjects, an individual with a bachelor's degree can complete a program of study from the American Board of Certification for Teacher Excellence (ABCTE), pass their specific test, and be certified. Current certified teachers can also add new areas of certification by taking Missouri Area Content Exams.

### Who's Hiring in Missouri?

**Washington University**  
**University of Missouri**  
**Missouri University of Science and Technology**  
**Missouri State University**  
**Local School Districts**



## Instruction

## Professional Support Services

### Now

#### Short-Term On-the-Job Training

**Childcare Workers**

Entry: \$27,060 Average: \$30,270

**Certificates:** Child Care Provider/Assistant

**Library Assistants, Clerical**

Entry: \$27,010 Average: \$32,400

**Skills:** Library Resources, Customer Service, Clerical Duties

### Next

#### Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

**Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary**

Entry: \$25,960 Average: \$34,550

**Preschool Teachers, except Special Education**

Entry: \$29,720 Average: \$38,020

**Certificates:** Child Care and Support Services Management

**Degrees:** Early Childhood Education and Teaching

**Library Technicians**

Entry: \$33,430 Average: \$38,160

**Occupational Therapy Assistants**

Entry: \$48,620 Average: \$61,290

**Physical Therapist Assistants**

Entry: \$51,440 Average: \$62,750

**Degrees:** Occupational Therapist Assistant, Physical Therapy Technician/Assistant

### Later

#### Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

**Elementary School Teachers**

Entry: \$46,130 Average: \$55,530

**Secondary School Teachers**

Entry: \$47,850 Average: \$63,500

**Special Education Teachers, Secondary School**

Entry: \$46,190 Average: \$55,870

**Degrees:** Teacher Education, Special Education and Teaching, Elementary Education

**Instructional Coordinators**

Entry: \$54,920 Average: \$73,870

**Registered Nurses**

Entry: \$64,090 Average: \$77,590

**Librarians and Media Collection Specialists**

Entry: \$42,360 Average: \$55,400

**Degrees:** Nursing, Curriculum and Instruction, Library Science, Psychology

#### Sources:

Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse  
2023 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Top employers data is based on 2024 online job ads



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## Support Services

## Administrative & Business Operations

### Now

#### Short-Term On-the-Job Training

**Janitors and Cleaners, except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners**

Entry: \$28,950 Average: \$33,830

**Food Preparation Workers**

Entry: \$27,410 Average: \$30,460

**Security Guards**

Entry: \$31,810 Average: \$44,490

**Certificates:** Truck and Bus Driver/Commercial Vehicle Operator, Certified Protection Officer

**General Office Clerks**

Entry: \$32,200 Average: \$43,330

**Receptionists & Information Clerks**

Entry: \$28,830 Average: \$34,060

**Data Entry Keyers**

Entry: \$31,280 Average: \$37,150

**Certificates:** Business Administration Certificates

### Next

#### Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

**Maintenance and Repair Workers, General**

Entry: \$36,240 Average: \$48,080

**Food Service Managers**

Entry: \$46,090 Average: \$64,420

**First-Line Supervisor of Housekeeping & Janitorial Workers**

Entry: \$36,480 Average: \$44,280

**Certificates:** Restaurant, Culinary, and Catering Management/Manager

**Certificates:** Building Maintenance, ServSafe Food Protection Manager Certification

**Human Resources Assistants**

Entry: \$37,870 Average: \$45,240

**Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks**

Entry: \$36,730 Average: \$46,990

**Computer User Support Specialists**

Entry: \$41,600 Average: \$57,600

**Degrees:** Business Administration & Management, Accounting, Computer Science

### Later

#### Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

**General & Operations Managers**

Entry: \$49,690 Average: \$98,520

**General & Operations Managers**

Entry: \$49,690 Average: \$98,520

**Human Resources Specialists**

Entry: \$47,080 Average: \$67,480

**Degrees:** Business Administration & Management

**Degrees:** Business Administration & Management, Human Resources Development

#### Sources: Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse  
2023 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
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